

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-10 (canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A standardized bee venom preparation suitable for administration by injection comprising: a liquid carrier and admixed therein between about 0.1 mg to about 10.0 mg by weight of bee venom per mL of said liquid carrier, said preparation being filtered through a ~~25-mem-er~~ ~~less~~ filter, wherein said standardized bee venom preparation is substantially free of bacteria or viruses.

12-18 (canceled).

19. (New) A standardized bee venom preparation that is substantially free of bacteria or viruses.

20. (New) The standardized bee venom preparation of claim 19 that is substantially free of bacteria.

21. (New) The standardized bee venom preparation of claim 20 that is further substantially free of bacterial debris.

22. (New) The standardized bee venom preparation of claim 20 that is further substantially free of viruses.

23. (New) The standardized bee venom preparation of claim 19 that is substantially free of viruses.

24. (New) The standardized bee venom preparation of claim 23 that is further substantially free of bacteria.

25. (New) The standardized bee venom preparation of claim 23 that is further substantially free of bacterial debris.

26. (New) A method of producing a bee venom preparation, comprising

(a) dissolving dried bee venom crystals in water to obtain a bee venom solution; and

(b) purifying said bee venom solution to remove bacteria, bacterial debris, or viruses.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said purifying step is carried out by a means selected from the group consisting of filtration with a filter, reverse phase chromatography, affinity chromatography, recrystallization, immunochemical precipitation, and membrane permeation.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said dried bee venom crystals is collected by a method comprising

(i) placing an extractor in front of a bee hive, wherein said extractor comprises an inner and an outer frame, said outer frame comprising wires that can be alternately grounded and charged, and said inner frame comprising a stretched silicone rubber sheet, wherein said inner frame is placed in said outer frame such that a bee in contact with two consecutive wires can force its stinger into said silicone rubber sheet;

(ii) applying an electric current to said wires of said extractor, wherein said electric current is alternatively on and off;

(iii) removing said inner frame from said extractor; and

(iv) collecting dried bee venom crystals from said inner frame.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said electric current is alternatively on for five seconds on and off for three seconds.

30. (New) A method of collecting bee venom, comprising

(a) placing an extractor in front of a bee hive, wherein said extractor comprises an inner and an outer frame, said outer frame comprising wires that can be alternately grounded and charged, and said inner frame comprising a stretched silicone rubber sheet, wherein said inner frame is placed in said outer frame such that a bee in contact with two consecutive wires can force its stinger into said silicone rubber sheet;

(b) applying an electric current to said wires of said extractor, wherein said electric current is alternatively on and off;

(c) removing said inner frame from said extractor; and

(d) collecting dried bee venom crystals from said inner frame.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said electric current is alternatively on for five seconds on and off for three seconds.

32. (New) An extractor for collecting bee venom, comprising

(a) an inner frame comprising a stretched silicone rubber sheet; and

(b) an outer frame comprising wires that can be alternately grounded and charged,

wherein said inner frame is placed in said outer frame such that a bee in contact with two consecutive wires can force its stinger into said silicone rubber sheet.